

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

FROM OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 19, 1852.

Parliamentary proceedings have, so far, been uninteresting, and merely indicative of coming business. Bills for extending the elective franchise, and amending the laws relating to the representation of the people in Scotland and Ireland, have been introduced into the House of Commons.

The first great battle of parties is expected to commence this evening. The Protectionists have, apparently, not agreed upon their course of action; but, like cautious campaigners, they have resolved to send out an advanced party, for the purpose of trying the temper and ascertaining the numbers of the enemy. If there should appear to be any chance of carrying the Whig camp by storm, the Tories will no doubt bring up the whole of their forces, and a decisive trial of strength will be the result. But, if the Whig camp should prove too strong, and its position too well protected, its opponents will content themselves with doing it all the mischief they can; and, quietly beat a retreat, and wait for a more favorable opportunity for dislodging their antagonists from their official eminence. The allies whom the Protectionists have connected themselves with in their Ministerial onslaught this evening are the Roman Catholic members, familiarly designated as "the Irish Brigade." This conjunction of ultra Protectionists with ultra Catholics appears to us to be quite as monstrous as the strongly-denounced union of the Legitimists with the Mountain in the late French Assembly; it bespeaks the same political fanaticism, the same absence of political, not to say moral principle, the same recklessness of honor and of consequences. It cannot, in England, lead to the same results, but it has a manifestly dangerous tendency in that direction. The Whites and the Reds of the Paris Parliament lately and would have crushed each other, but they had one common principle to unite them; they both hated Louis Napoleon. With a bitter hate, if possible, than that which they felt for each other, and therefore they joined their forces to oppose him. So it is with the Protectionists and the "Irish Brigade."

They have a most cordial dislike for each other, but they each dislike the Whigs more, and therefore they will combine this evening for the overthrow of the Government. A morning paper says: "This evening Lord NAAS intends moving, with this cordial concurrence of the Conservative party, a direct vote of censure on the Irish Government in connection with the untoward affair of Birch and the 'World newspaper.' The 'Irish Brigade,' we understand, will be high spirits at the prospect of thus attacking the Government. The motion stands as follows: 'That, in the opinion of this House, the transactions which appear recently to have taken place between the Irish Government and the editor of a Dublin newspaper are of a nature to weaken the authority of the Executive, and to reflect discredit on the administration of public affairs.'"

Mr. MILLNER GIBSON has once more placed his motion for the repeal of what are called "the taxes upon knowledge" upon the books of the House of Commons. This motion includes the taxes upon advertisements, paper, and foreign books, and the newspaper stamp. The value of the paper annually made in England is estimated at £8,000,000, and the quantity annually manufactured exceeds in weight 125,000,000 pounds. About fifty thousand persons are employed in its immediate manufacture, and quite two hundred thousand more in the many trades connected with paper.

Lord PALMERSTON has given notice of an amendment to the Lord Derby motion respecting the organization of the militia, giving to that body a general and not a merely local application. The ex-Foreign Secretary is well versed in the subject, and will give rise, there is no doubt, to a very interesting parliamentary discussion, and it may be to highly important national results.

The Reform Bill will not be allowed to pass the Commons without experiencing all the opposition which the Protectionists can give it. A meeting has been held at Lord DUNSTON'S, at which 102 members attended.

"Lord Derby made a speech, stating that in his opinion a most decided opposition should be made to the second reading of the bill, on the ground that the Reform Bill of 1832 had settled the preponderance of the aristocratic and democratic powers of the constitution, and had at the time been accompanied by a settlement of the measures of reform in the House of Commons; and that, although he admitted there were many defects in that bill which he was not unwilling should be amended, yet that the present measure would entirely upset the balance of these powers, and accordingly to the democratic party; that he therefore decidedly adverse to the measure, and recommended that it should be opposed as strongly as possible. They might, perhaps, be beaten in the contest, but at all events they would have done their duty to the throne and the country. A resolution to oppose the second reading of the bill was then carried with only one dissentient voice."

The excitement about the hostile intentions of Louis NAPOLEON toward England, and the alleged unprotected state of the British coast, has in great measure subsided. But, although the idea of an immediate necessity to be prepared for a hostile attack may be abandoned, we think that the Government, as well as the people, are determined not to be caught napping whenever the time for action may arrive. Among other precautionary measures, a powerful channel squadron is to be organized to cruise between Spithead, Plymouth, and Queenstown during the summer. This evolutionary force is to comprise the finest sailing and steamships in the British navy. The flag-ship will be the *Sans Pareil*, screw two-decker, of eighty-one guns.

There is nothing new of much interest in the Literary world. Mr. D'ISRAELI'S biography of Lord G. BENTINCK has reached its fourth edition. It is a strange omission of a book, but full of interest and a certain kind of talent. Strange to say, the author has managed to introduce thirty pages of very curious matter relating to the Jews for no other reason, that we can perceive, than that Lord G. Bentinck separated himself from his party, and voted in favor of removing the Jewish disabilities. However, in these pages Mr. D'israeli introduces much more matter.

The European nations are indebted to the Jews for much that regulates, much that charms, and much that solaces existence. The tolling multitude rest every seventh day by virtue of a Jewish law; they are perpetually reading, for their example, the records of Jewish history and singing the tales and legends of Jewish poets; they daily acknowledge on their knees with reverent gratitude, that the only medium of communication between the Creator and themselves is the Jewish race. Yet they treat that race as the vilest of generations; and, instead of logically looking upon them as the human family that has constituted the noblest and happiest, they extend to them every term of obloquy and every form of persecution."

Mr. D'ISRAELI says: "The allegation that the dispersion of the Jewish race is a penalty incurred for the commission of a great crime—the crucifixion of Jesus Christ—is neither historically true nor dogmatically sound. It is, historically true, because the Jews were as much dispersed throughout the world at the advent of our Lord as they are at the present time, and had been so for many centuries."

He says that the "allegation is not dogmatically sound," and that "there is no passage in the sacred writings that in the slightest degree warrants the penal assumption." It would be entirely out of place to enter upon his argument here, but it is extremely curious, and will no doubt excite great attention, and much discussion. Again he says:

"The Jews, after all this havoc and persecution they have experienced, are probably more numerous at this date than they were during the reign of Solomon the Wise; are found in all lands, and, unfortunately, prosper in most. All which proves that it is in vain for man to attempt to baffle the inexorable law of nature which has decreed that a superior race shall never be destroyed or absorbed by an inferior."

Again: "If the reader throws his eye over the Provisional Governments of Germany, of Italy, and even of France, (formed in 1848,) he will recognize every where the Jewish element. MARINI, who accomplished the insurrection, and defence, and administration of Venice, is a Jew, who professes the law of the Jewish religion and believes in *Calvary* as well as Sinai. He is what the Lombards call a converted Jew. FREDERICK GUST, Secretary to the Congress of Vienna, was a child of Israel. Several millions of the Jewish race persist in believing in only a part of their religion. There is one fact which none can

contest. Christians may continue to persecute Jews, and Jews may persist in disbelieving Christians, but who can deny that Jesus of Nazareth, the incarnate Son of the most high God, is the eternal glory of the Jewish race?"

We perhaps ought to apologize for extracting thus largely upon a subject foreign to our usual course. We, however, wish to be considered as treating the subject as a literary and historical one, and not as a theological one; and the former it is most curious and interesting, and we think our extracts may draw attention to the entire dissertation.

FRANCE affords very little news. The *Times* has been endeavoring to ascertain the number of persons arrested in France within the last few weeks, and it is assured by the best authorities, speaking on sufficient evidence, that the number probably reaches 100,000. As the prisons are gorged, and fresh arrests are being made every day, the Government has become embarrassed with the mass of prisoners, and it has therefore been earning the credit of moderation by dismissing a considerable number of the lowest class—those who were "misled" or seduced into insurrection. New tribunals, consisting of a military officer, a prefect, and a judge, have been established for the purpose of disposing of the prisoners in the most rapid possible manner. These and other acts, together with the fixed determination of the Government to keep opposition candidates out of the Legislative Chamber, are said to be producing a powerful effect upon the popular mind throughout France.

The *Cologne Gazette* states that France has entered into confidential negotiations with several of the States of Italy, with the view of forming a federation of the several Italian States under the protection of the French Republic. Again, advice from Constantinople, Germany, and Paris concur in stating that the dispute between France and Turkey relative to the holy places in Jerusalem has not been settled. The *Univers* threatens that, if the Sultan should recede from the arrangement which was nearly settled, "France will be under the necessity of proposing an ultimatum which Turkey would not easily resolve to repulse." According to all accounts the "Prince President" has plenty of iron in the fire. He is represented as being in a state of complete exhaustion, both of mind and body; there is no doubt that he has been lately very much engaged, and kept himself in a state of great excitement. The French papers are full of a *coup de main* which is to come off on the 22d instant; all the Generals are said to have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness for a movement on that day. The initiative is to be taken by the troops at Lyons, commanded by Gen. CASTELLAINE.

The Queen of Spain has very nearly recovered from her wound. There are rumors of Ministerial changes at Madrid. Political matters are far from being calm and settled in that country.

From the PAPAL STATES we hear that the Austrians, as well as the French, are beginning to pay great attention to the question of substituting rifles for muskets. The Austrian troops at Ancona have been recently supplied with sixteen of the newly-invented German rifles to every company of a hundred and eighty men. These soldiers are now daily drilling as sharpshooters. It appears that the whole Austrian infantry has been similarly supplied, and the officers declare that these rifles will carry with decided effect upwards of a thousand yards. Great pains are bestowed by the Austrian officers in keeping the troops under their command in the highest state of efficiency. In the provinces occupied by them, soon after daylight, the soldiers are to be seen spread about through the vineyards, hills, and dales, carrying on sham fights, and firing away the Emperor's gunpowder with most unsparring hands. They seem to enjoy the exercise, and hurra with stentorian lungs and right good will whenever they are led to the storming of some height.

A Turin paper states that the Grand Duke has directed another constitution to be formed for TUSCANY, "to be framed according to the spirit of the times." Which does the Grand Duke mean? The spirit of the times, as he and his brother sovereigns of Italy and Austria interpret it, or as it is understood by their people? The forts of MILAN are to be immediately completed, and a reserved fund has been established to meet the expenses of a war, if one should break out. Lombardy is now supporting 100,000 men of the Austrian army in Austrian Italy. The population of Venice and Lombardy is only about five millions. The pressure of taxation is producing extensive emigration.

Preparation for war, or at least being ready for it should it come, seems to be the order of the day in Europe. The Emperor of RUSSIA is not behindhand in his preparations. He has, at this time, a fleet in the Baltic numbering forty-two sail of the line, all powerfully equipped, ably manned, extensively stored, and ready for action. The *Times* of this morning states that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg lately communicated a message to the French Government, which gave considerable uneasiness to LOUIS NAPOLEON. It appears from this document that the Czar heartily approved of the French President's proceedings, so long as they tended to put down Republicanism. The *coup d'etat* met with the Emperor Nicholas's sympathy and approval, as causing the overthrow of the Republic. He regards it as a great step towards the restoration of monarchy, but he had no intention that such monarchy should be vested in Louis Napoleon. The latter was merely regarded as the temporary chief of the French Government—the head of a Government essentially provisional, and to last for a certain period and no longer. He refused to recognize either the President or the Government by any other title or in any other character. The subsequent acts of December, however, roused the suspicions of the Emperor and his Minister, Count Nesselrode, and hence this communication. In this document it is plainly stated, in so many words, that the Czar will not admit the transformation of the title of President into that of Emperor, or the introduction into Europe of a new dynasty. The correspondent of the *Times* goes on to say:

"The President is understood to have complained that his intentions and his acts were misunderstood or misrepresented at St. Petersburg; that his decrees about the Imperial eagle, his march on the campaign, and his residence at the Tuileries ought not to be distorted, nor their importance exaggerated; that they were merely regulations; that in reverting to the Constitution of the year VIII. he only meant to establish a strong authority in his hands; that the recollections of the Empire overshadowed his present position; that there was nothing astonishing in the fact of his seeking in the institution of the Empire what was certain to re-establish authority in France; that he had no intention of re-establishing the Empire, or of making himself Emperor; that he did not want either the name or the pomp of the Empire; that he had been called; that his title of President sufficed for him; that he had no reason to trouble himself about an Imperial dynasty which has no existence; and that there was no reason for the Emperor Nicholas troubling himself about it. On all these points it is affirmed that the President made the most formal declarations; and as it had been previously intimated that they were to be transmitted to the Russian Government, a courier was, as I have already stated, dispatched on Wednesday last to St. Petersburg, to deliver them."

"Whether they will be found satisfactory or otherwise, it is stated as positive that the incident itself was singularly disagreeable to the President—all the more so that the instructions of the Imperial Cabinet had been dispatched from St. Petersburg before the decrees of the 22d January, conferring to the State the Orleans principle, were known there. It is therefore argued, or anticipated, that the President, in the office of the Presidency, forfeited as it was by acts of little relative importance, forfeited nothing favorable. It is believed, and not without reason, that the decrees of confiscation will have been severely judged by the Emperor, and that they will give rise, on the part of the Emperor, to remonstrances of an embarrassing nature. The Emperor Nicholas has been, as is well known, the friend of King Louis Philippe. He never approved his accession to the throne in 1830. He had, to be sure, recognised him as king, but not without justifying, on most occasions, his censure and his reluctance. It is equally certain that the Emperor held in high esteem the personal qualities of the late king, and he admitted and admired to a great degree his domestic virtues, as well as those of the Queen, and the personal qualities of their children. It may therefore be safely presumed that the moment is awaited with anxiety which shall decide whether the Emperor, in the person of the Emperor, in the acts of the 22d January a spirit of vengeance, or reprisal. Should such be the case, there is little doubt that the representations likely to be made on this subject by the Imperial Cabinet would give great force to the protests of the Belgian Government and the King of Wurtemberg; as also to the protest which will probably be made by the King of Naples, the Queen of Spain, and the House of Coburg."

According to late advices from INDIA, the apprehension of a war with BURMA had been allayed. His "golden-footed Majesty" had complied with all the demands of the Indian Government. There had been a serious fire at Hong-Kong, and several lives lost.

The overland mail brings news from AUSTRALIA that the colonists had been much excited by the discovery of gold at Melbourne, Port Phillip (now called Victoria), in such prodigious quantities as to leave the Sydney diggings completely in the shade. The daily yield was about £10,000. All accounts, however, agree that the work is exceedingly hard. Government efforts had been established to protect the treasure in its transit to town, the daily amount transported being from 2,000 to 3,000 ounces. The colonists were getting alarmed at the influence of the gold discoveries on their staple export, wool. Shearing was going on rapidly, and though the wool is said to be superior in quality to last year's clip, it will fall considerably short in quantity, owing to the great mortality during the lambing season. Should the "gold fever" continue, there must be a large falling off in the export of wool during the next two months, particularly from Victoria and New South Wales; whence, owing to the difficulty of obtaining labor, much of the wool will have to be sent home in an unwashed state.

The second edition of the *Times* gives the following paragraph: PARIS, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18.—The *Moniteur* publishes a "communicated" note, declaring that there is no truth in the rumor of menacing demands being made on foreign Governments by France, or of its warlike intentions; and that the Government has not taken any one step that would show a change in its pacific policy.

LONDON, FEBRUARY 20. The motion by Lord NAAS, in reprobation of the Earl of CLARENDON, was discussed in the House of Commons last evening. The motion was sustained by 137 votes, and opposed by 229; showing a majority of 92 votes, in a house of 366, in favor of Ministers. Lord Naas, Mr. Moore, and Lord C. Hamilton, (Irish members,) and Col. Sibthorpe and Mr. Newdegate, and Mr. D'Israeli, (English members,) spoke in favor of the motion, (Lord John Russell and Palmerston, Mr. Hobhouse, and Col. Thompson, (English members,) and Sir D. Norreys and Messrs. Roche and Power, (Irish members,) against it. The division has given the friends of Ministers much confidence. Whatever dislike the Irish members have of the Whigs, they have a much stronger feeling against the Tories, and they will not, we must think, as a body, do any thing which may tend to bring the latter into power. There was nothing else of importance in the proceedings of either House. Lord DUNSTON has given notice that he intends to oppose the Parliamentary reform bill, should it reach the House of Lords. Of course it will be strongly opposed on its second reading in the House of Commons next Friday.

The new law for regulating, or rather for destroying, the press in France has been published. The public journals, under its restrictions, will be any thing rather than echoes of public sentiment; they will not even in any measurable degree, be chroniclers of the events, the opinions, and the discussions and proceedings of the times. The *caution money*, for a daily paper, has been fixed at 50,000 francs, for a tri-weekly or daily paper 25,000. No journal is to be allowed to give any report of the proceedings on trial for press offences; nor, without the permission of the court, of any other trials whatever. No report of the debates in the legislative body nor of the sittings of the Council of State, is to be permitted. Nor are judicial advertisements to be inserted in any other papers than such as are designated by the prefects. It is a libel upon the word to call such a measure this LAW, which sets all law at defiance. We find the following among the late news from Paris:

"The Emperor of Orleans has addressed the following letter to the President, reducing the dotation of 200,000 francs per annum, maintained to her in the decree of January 22:

"MONSIEUR: As I do not acknowledge your right to plunder my family, neither do I acknowledge your right to assign to me a dotation in the name of France. I refuse the dowry."

There was considerable stir in the money market yesterday, owing to a report that the Bank was about to reduce the rate of interest to two per cent.

FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.

PARIS, FEBRUARY 19, 1852.

Disquieting rumors of war have been seriously troubling Paris and the Government since the date of my last letter. Belgium and Switzerland were the countries toward which apprehension was directed. France was said to have assumed in diplomatic relations with both of these countries, a very decided if not dictatorial and provoking tone, touching the asylum and protection afforded by them to the French refugees. The reports seemed confirmed by the notorious facts that Belgium is increasing her military force on the French frontier; that the opposition there is perpetually twitting the Government with tamely cringing before French threats; and the further fact that the Belgian Government is certainly, by the adoption of many conciliatory measures, most sedulously careful to avoid giving just ground of offence to her powerful and dangerous neighbor.

As to Switzerland, the rumor is that the alarm was accounted for by intelligence that the cantons were in a high state of excitement in consequence of the threats against their national independence made by the neighboring Powers, France taking the lead. All parties were invoking concord and union of heart and hand to make successful head against the common danger which they were threatened. The federal journal published at Basle speaks alarmingly of the French note remitted by the Minister to the Federal Government, and pretends to quote very harshly if not insolent expressions contained in that note. In the mean time, to satisfy as far as possible the exigencies of her formidable neighbor, the Council of State, in Geneva, through the city, issued the following decree:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND POLICE.—The Council of State, on the demand of the Federal Commissioners, &c., decrees as follows:

French citizens whose recent events have brought to Switzerland, and who are without regular papers, are invited to present themselves at the Department of Justice and Police to declare whether it be their intention to ask asylum in Switzerland or passport for other countries. Those who are under summons to appear before French tribunals, or who have been condemned by default, if they desire to remain in Switzerland must go into the interior at least eight leagues from the frontier. Those who do not intend to remain in Switzerland will be directed to countries where they can be received, and will be furnished with passports from the Federal authority.

The Department takes this occasion to remind the citizens that it is forbidden, under penalty of fine, to lodge any foreigners without reporting their names to the Foreign bureau, which will give permits to remain (*permis de séjour*) to those who have regular papers.

To all these reports, thus founded and apparently justified, this Government responds by the following note communicated to yesterday's *Moniteur*: "When in 1848 it was in contemplation to nominate Prince Louis Napoleon to the office of the Presidency, several English journals, and most of the persons interested in opposing the nomination, pretended that to place a Bonaparte at the head of France would be to defy all Europe; and they saw, in his election only the signal of general war. It is well known whether these fears were realized. Since the day when the Emperor's system of colonies has been known, and ignorance and party spirit have combined to give them credit. The most absurd suppositions have been invented. At one time it was stated that demands had been made upon the neighboring States in a tone almost of menace; at another that great preparations were making for war; at another, that the Emperor was to be crowned in the city of Rome, by the aid of audacious falsehoods, represent our situation from a point of view entirely imaginary. Time, which is usually prompt enough to do justice to such acts of malice and folly, seems, on the contrary, in this instance, to encourage them. False alarms are propagated more than ever. Projects of invasion are talked of, and it is even pretended that our regiments are now ready to cross the frontier. In consequence, injury is done to the public credit, and serious obstacles are thrown in the way of the revival of trade. Meanwhile, since the day when the Emperor's Government has addressed no demand to any foreign Power except Belgium, and then only to prevent the organiza-

tion of that country of a series of incessant attacks. It has not armed one soldier more, and has not even been given a general review. In fact it has done nothing which could have broken the just susceptibility of our neighbors. All the efforts of the Government in France at this moment are directed towards internal ameliorations. Unjust attacks cannot move it. It will not allow its tranquillity to be disturbed until the day when an attack shall have been made on the national dignity and honor. Its attitude cannot be changed for one moment to the pacific; and all rumors to the contrary are as miserable as the which, after this formal denial, it will only be necessary to treat hereafter with contempt."

I suppose that we must believe, after this very positive denial, that the French Government is only actuated by the most pacific intentions.

The long-expected law on the press is at last out. Here are its principal provisions. You will wonder to see such a statute the law in France of 1852:

"1. No journal* can be published without previous authorization of the Government. 2. The publisher must in all cases be a Frenchman in the enjoyment of his political rights. 3. No change can be made in the proprietorship or editorship of a journal without authorization of the Government. 4. No foreign journal can be distributed without that authorization. 5. Before the publication of any journal a fixed amount of caution-money must be deposited in the public treasury, for which the Government will allow interest. The amount of the caution-money is to be as follows: In the departments of Seine, Seine-et-Oise, in France, at this moment, the journal appears more than three times a week, 50,000 francs must be deposited; if it appears three times a week or less, the sum of 30,000 francs. In the other departments, in towns containing 50,000 inhabitants and upwards, if the journal appears more than three times a week 25,000 francs must be deposited; if it appears three times a week or less, 12,500 francs. In all other towns, if the journal appears more than three times a week, 14,000 francs must be deposited; if it appears three times a week or less, 7,000 francs. 6. There will be a stamp duty of 1 centime on each copy of the journal. 7. The journals published in the department of Seine-et-Oise, and three centimes on all others. 8. The supplements to the official journals will not be liable to this duty. 9. All foreign journals will be subjected to a stamp duty of 1 centime on each copy. 10. The printing of any journal without the authorization of the Government is prohibited. 11. The courts of justice cannot forbid the journals to publish their proceedings, except as in the instance just mentioned, the judgments rendered. 12. Offences of the press, instead of being tried, as now, before a jury, will be taken before the tribunal of the Correctional Police; and all appeals will be made to the Court of Cassation. 13. The Court of Cassation, in no case, shall be allowed to annul the judgment of the tribunal of the Correctional Police. 14. In order to establish the truth of any injurious or defamatory statement. 15. The publication of any social or political article emanating from a person under condemnation of the tribunals subjects the editors, contributors, and printers, to a fine of 500 francs. 16. The publication of any article of the press, which is not authorized by the Government, is prohibited. 17. Any journal publishing unauthorized reports of the proceedings of the Senate or the tribunals is liable to a fine of from fifty to five thousand francs, independent of any fines incurred by reason of the publication of false news, or malicious or injurious articles. 18. Any journal publishing unauthorized reports of the proceedings of the legislative body is subject to a fine of from one thousand to five thousand francs. 19. The publication or re-publication of false news, fabricated documents, or papers falsely attributed to third parties, subjects a journal to a fine of from one thousand to five thousand francs. 20. The publication of any article which is of a nature to disturb the public peace, the publisher is liable to a fine of from five hundred to one thousand francs, and from a month to a year's imprisonment. In case the publication is both malicious and of a tendency to disturb the public peace, the maximum of the fine is 5,000 francs, and the imprisonment is from one month to one year. 21. Every contravention of the stamp law will subject the publisher to a fine of fifty francs for each sheet issued, in addition to a restitution of the amount of the evaded stamps. For a second offence the fine will be one hundred francs per sheet; but the fine must not exceed the amount of the caution-money. 22. The Government has the right, within two months after the condemnation of any journal, to suspend or suppress it altogether. 23. A journal may be suspended for a period not exceeding two months by the ministry without the publisher having in any instance been condemned; only in that case it must receive a new caution-money. 24. If a journal which has been suspended for one month, or more, is not re-published within two months after the expiration of the suspension, it will be condemned to a fine of from five hundred to one thousand francs, and to a joint fine of from five hundred to three thousand francs for every paper issued. 25. All fines must be paid within three days after they are imposed, under penalty of suspension of the journal. 26. The Government has the right to suspend the journal, or to condemn it for offence within one year, gives the Government full right to suspend a journal. 27. Any journal may be suppressed, whether in consequence of a judicial or administrative suspension, or as a measure of public security. 28. The President of the Republic has the right to suspend, or to suppress, or to distribute, or to authorize foreign journals into the country is liable to imprisonment for from one month to a year, and to a fine of from one hundred to five hundred francs. 29. No drawings, engravings, lithographs, emblems, of whatever nature or kind, may be printed, or offered for sale, without the previous authorization of the Minister of Police in Paris, or the prefects in the departments. 30. Every bookseller must be licensed, under penalty of a fine of from one hundred to two thousand francs, imprisonment of from one month to two years, and the closing of his establishment. This law is not applicable to Algeria or the colonies."

This law is thus communicated in the semi-official *Constitutionnel* of this morning: "The decree of Louis Napoleon on the press suppresses the special right of one centime (2 mills) on the feuilletons. We do not hesitate to say that it is a good idea of the President, both for letters and those who cultivate them. The feuilleton-column will be reopened for the works of our romance-writers; but let our men of talent now devote their talents to the study of the history of the Republic. 28. Any person introducing or distributing unauthorized foreign journals into the country is liable to imprisonment for from one month to a year, and to a fine of from one hundred to five hundred francs. 29. No drawings, engravings, lithographs, emblems, of whatever nature or kind, may be printed, or offered for sale, without the previous authorization of the Minister of Police in Paris, or the prefects in the departments. 30. Every bookseller must be licensed, under penalty of a fine of from one hundred to two thousand francs, imprisonment of from one month to two years, and the closing of his establishment. This law is not applicable to Algeria or the colonies."

In juxtaposition with the law on the press, it has occurred to me that it might be interesting to your readers to have a short history of French laws on this subject. I accordingly borrow the following facts from the *Siccle*:

"Before the revolution of 1789 the press-legislation was very simple. No work could appear without the approbation and sanction of the King. The examination of all books, pamphlets, and newspapers was confided to a permanent committee called Royal Censors. These functionaries were very numerous, and divided their work into ten classes, including every kind of literature, and even one branch of art, to wit, architecture."

"Immediately after the revolution (August 26, 1789) the National Assembly decreed, in principle, the entire liberty of the press. In March, 1791, any one could exercise the right of printing, without being bound by any law. A Constitution which was promulgated a few months after declared that freedom of thought and opinion were natural and inalienable rights. This Constitution guaranteed to every Frenchman the liberty to speak, write, print, and publish his thoughts without the slightest legal restraint. The law of 1791 was, however, in the hands of the *Dispositives* of the 22d August, 1795. But on the 5th of September, 1797, the next day even after the 18th *Fruiti-dor*, all periodicals were placed for one year under inspection of the police, who examined and had the right to suspend or suppress them. On the 26th of August following the regulation was continued for another year. On the 30th of September, 1798, a law was passed subjecting all periodicals to a special tax: an exception was made, however, of all scientific publications which appeared not often than once a month, and contained two sheets or less. On the 10th of December, 1799, complete liberty was restored to the journals. The Constitution of the year VIII, promulgated on the 13th of September following, re-established the law of 1791."

"By the word journal throughout this abstract is meant any periodical treating of political matters or social economy, whether appearing regularly or irregularly. The law of 1791 was, however, in the hands of the *Dispositives* of the 22d August, 1795. But on the 5th of September, 1797, the next day even after the 18th *Fruiti-dor*, all periodicals were placed for one year under inspection of the police, who examined and had the right to suspend or suppress them. On the 26th of August following the regulation was continued for another year. On the 30th of September, 1798, a law was passed subjecting all periodicals to a special tax: an exception was made, however, of all scientific publications which appeared not often than once a month, and contained two sheets or less. On the 10th of December, 1799, complete liberty was restored to the journals. The Constitution of the year VIII, promulgated on the 13th of September following, re-established the law of 1791."

ing, said not a word about the press. This silence was ominous. In fact the commencement of the nineteenth century was inaugurated by the suppression of nearly all the journals published in Paris. Among the few exceptions were the *Journal des Debats*. The Government forbade the publication of any new paper, and reserved to itself the right to suppress at any moment those which still remained. This state of things remained for a long time. Article sixty-four of the Senatorial decree of 1804 constituted a committee of seven members, named by the Emperor, to watch over the liberty of the press; but all journals and magazines were formally excepted from this protection.

"On the 6th of February, 1810, a decree re-established the censorship for all productions of the press. The same decree provided that the journals should be licensed, and that from the 1st of January following the number of printers should be limited. The number for Paris was fixed at 60; shortly after it was increased to 80. A new decree of the 3d of August, the same year, decided that there should be but one journal for each department of France, and that should be placed under the surveillance of the prefect. Another decree, of the 29th April, 1811, imposed a stamp duty of one centime (about two mills) per sheet on every kind of printed work destined for sale. On the restoration of the Bourbons the 8th article of the Charter again proclaimed the liberty of the press; but on the 21st of March, 1815, Napoleon, on his return from Elba, suppressed the censorship; and on the 22d of April following a law was passed, supplemental to the Constitutions of the Empire, referring all offences against the law of the press to trial by jury. This state of things was of short duration. The Emperor, Louis XVIII., re-established the censorship by a law of the 13th of October, 1815, Napoleon, on his return from Elba, suppressed the censorship; and on the 22d of April following a law was passed, supplemental to the Constitutions of the Empire, referring all offences against the law of the press to trial by jury. This state of things was of short duration. 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